

step 19 and the operator notified in step 18 to take corrective action. Typically, the notification process includes activating a call to a paging service which delivers a message to a pager held by the operator. The notification message identifies the host process and cause of failure to those receiving the monitor message. The monitor program also has a mechanism for problem escalation. If the failure is not resolved in a specified number of verification attempts, then another list of notifications to second and third tier operators can be sent as well.

By now it should be clear that the present invention provides a method to monitor the correct operation of a remote computer system without requiring a log on to that system. The method allows using a set of commands and software which are available in the operating systems of the computers in the network without extensive custom programming to verify the desired operation of the computers on the network without compromising computer security. All commands are usable on a wide variety of different computer systems which comprise heterogeneous systems. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims:

Please cancel claim 8.

1. (Amended) A method for remote [system] monitoring of computers on a network using software capability of the computer operating system, comprising:

providing a first computer system;  
providing a second computer system which operates independently of the first computer system, but which can exchange [E-mail]email with the first computer system;  
activating a [desired] program on the second computer system by sending a first [E-mail]email message from the first computer system to the second computer system;  
generating a status report from the [desired] program, the status report comprising a [desired] summary of operating conditions which affect the performance of the second computer system; and  
returning the status report to the first computer system by a second [E-mail]email message.

2. (Amended) The method for remote [system] monitoring of computers on a network of claim 1 further comprising:

automatically evaluating the second [E-mail]email message based on predetermined status conditions; and  
notifying an attendant of error conditions by a remote paging device based on the results of the evaluation.

3. (Amended) A method for remote [system] monitoring of computers on a network using software capability of the computer operating system, comprising:

providing a monitor computer system;  
providing a [remote]target computer [system] linked to the monitoring computer;  
sending a network verification command from the monitor computer system to the [remote]target computer system;  
responding with a network verification code from the [remote]target computer system to the monitor computer system;  
sending an [E-mail]email test message from the monitor computer system to the [remote]target computer system;  
replying with an [E-mail]email verification message from the [remote]target computer system to the monitor computer system;  
sending an [E-mail]email status request message from the monitor computer system to the [remote]target computer system;  
locally analyzing the operation of the [remote]target computer system;  
generating a status message by the [remote]target computer system, the status message comprising at least a summary of the analysis of the operation of the [remote]target computer;  
replying with an [E-mail]email status message from the [remote]target computer system to the monitor computer system;  
receiving the [E-mail]email status message by the monitor computer system; and  
comparing the contents of the [E-mail] status message with a predetermined list of [desired] conditions at the [remote]target computer system.

2. (Amended) The method for remote [system] monitoring of computers on a network of claim 3 further comprising:

evaluating the significance of discrepancies found during the step of comparing the contents of the [E-mail]email status message; and

performing a predetermined task based on the results of the evaluation.

3. (Amended) The method for remote [system] monitoring of computers on a network of claim 2 wherein the predetermined task comprises automatically activating a remote paging device to signal an operator.

4. (Amended) The method for remote [system] monitoring of computers on a network of claim 2 wherein the predetermined task comprises automatically initiating a predetermined sequence of tasks on the [remote]target computer system.

5. (Amended) The method for remote [system] monitoring of computers on a network of claim 2 wherein the predetermined task comprises automatically alerting a predetermined list of people.

6. (Amended) The method for remote [system] monitoring of computers on a network of claim 2 wherein the predetermined list of [desired] conditions comprises a list of processes to be monitored and system resource utilization.

7. (Amended) A method for remote [system] monitoring of computers on a network using software capability of the computer operating system, comprising:

providing a monitor computer system;  
providing a [remote]target computer system linked to the monitoring computer, wherein the monitor computer system and

the [remote]target computer system comprise heterogeneous systems;

    sending a network verification command from the monitor computer system to the [remote]target computer system;

    responding with a network verification code from the [remote]target computer system to the monitor computer system;

    sending an [E-mail]email test message from the monitor computer system to the [remote]target computer system;

    replying with an [E-mail]email verification message from the [remote]target computer system to the monitor computer system;

    sending an [E-mail]email status request message from the monitor computer system to the [remote]target computer system;

    locally analyzing the operation of the [remote]target computer system;

    generating a status message by the [remote]target computer system, the status message comprising at least a summary of the analysis of the operation of the [remote]target computer;

    replying with an [E-mail]email status message from the [remote]target computer system to the monitor computer system;

    receiving the [E-mail]email status message by the monitor computer system;

    comparing the contents of the [E-mail]email status message with a list of processes to be monitored and current system resource utilization at the [remote]target computer system;

    evaluating the significance of discrepancies found during the step of comparing the contents of the [E-mail]email status message; and

    automatically activating a remote paging device to signal an operator based on the results of the evaluation.